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GREAT VIGILANCE: A FITTING ANSWER TO AGGRESSORS

- USSR -

by Ya. VEVERS

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GREAT VIGILANCE: A FITTING ANSWER TO AGGRESSORS

USSR

[The following is a translation of an article by Ya. Vevers, Representative of the Committee on State Security, Council of Minister of the Latvian SSR, in the Russian-language newspaper, Sovetskaya Latvija (Soviet Latvia), No. 130, 2 June 1960, page 2.]

In his recent statement, Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev unmasked with exhaustive completeness the aggressive intentions of the American militarists as regards the USSR. Driven into a corner by the facts, the rulers of the USA were compelled to confess the dispatching into the air space of our country on 1 May 1960 of an aircraft for espionage purposes. However, the ruling circles of the USA, including President Eisenhower, spoke in favor of the further organization of espionage against the USSR. Criminal espionage activities are thereby raised by the government of the USA to the level of state policy.

This obliges all peace-loving peoples and, above all, the Soviet people to prick up their ears, to raise still higher their political vigilance. The reason why U. S. intelligence is making no small efforts regarding the organization of espionage against our country certainly does not appear to be secret. The representatives of the monopolies and the ruling circles of the USA are extraordinarily worried by the continued growth of our country in power and authority, they are worried by the prospects of a peaceful competition between socialism and capitalism, which, with every passing day is turning out to be more and more in favour of socialism. The powerful camp of socialism now embraces more than half the globe in its authority.

All of this cannot but bring despair and anger to the monopolists of America, but they continue their same reckless actions, like sending American reconnaissance aircraft into the air space of our country. The instigators and organizers of the flights were caught red-handed, and none of the evasions and twists and turns of the State Department of the USA can save them from the responsibility and from the shame and disgrace.

Of course, the intelligence work of the USA is not carried out against our country by single invasions of our air space. The Central Intelligence Agency and other organs of intelligence of the USA do not shrink from any means in the attainment of their dirty goals.

Harry Rensom, a specialist on questions of intelligence at Harvard University, recently published the book Central Intelligence and National Security. Look what is said in this book:

"The vast intelligence machine of the USA is connected by invisible threads to all foreign governments. All the modern world, its geography, economics, and politics, its people and social forces, come under the observations and surveillance of the Central Intelligence Agency. Yearly, tens of millions of dollars are spent on espionage literature, research, trips of agents to foreign governments, radio interception of foreign broadcasts, the purchase of information from foreign informants, and on much other intelligence activity."

Rensom notes further that the sources of the intelligence information which the US intelligence uses are secret operations, secret sources, and covert agents. Further, it follows the press, and even tourists.

In organizing espionage against the Latvian SSR, American, West German, and the intelligence organizations of other countries of the imperialist camp also widely use the centers of Latvian emigrants which are supported by these intelligence organizations. The leader of the Latvian emigrants in the West are those evil enemies of the Latvian people who sold out their interests to the bourgeoisie even in the years of the so-called "independent" Latvia, and, later, to the Hitlerite hangmen during the years of the Great Fatherland War. Now they are serving the American, West German, and other monopolists body and soul.

Colonels of the Hitlerite SS troops Yanums and Osis; a former major of these same troops, Khazners; Professor Lein'sh' the lawyers Abakuks, Shilde, and Brachs; Archbishop Grinbergs; bishops Rantsams and Sloskan; and other ideologists of Latvian bourgeois nationalism in exile have created in the USA, West Germany, Sweden, and in a number of other countries various nationalist organizations under the loud banner of rendering help to their fellow, but deceived, emigrants. In reality, from these organizations -- "Daugavas Vanagi," Latvian National Union," and the like, the intelligence organizations of the imperialistic camp with the help of leaders of the emigrant groups recruit spies to be sent back to the territory of our republic.

Such then are the "services" rendered to the ruling circles of the USA and other countries of the capitalist camp by the non-representative so-called "ambassadors" of the nonexistent Latvian bourgeois government for the past 20 years--Spekke in the USA, Liepin'sh in Western Germany, Zarin'sh in England, and some others. These live corpses exist only because the ruling circles of the USA support them. President Eisenhower himself declared, in the past year, a so-called "'Enslaved' Peoples' Week." In February of this year, US Secretary of State Herter himself made a declaration casting aspersions on the people of the Baltic republics and including the Latvian people. Encouraged by all of this, the Spekke's, Yanums's Zarinsh's, and the like are drawing their fellow exiles into espionage and other subversive work against our country. The spies of

American intelligence arrested in Soviet Latvia--Brombergs, Zarin'sh, and the others--are well known from published material and serve as sacrifices of such deception. Caught red-handed, the spies received their just deserts. But the Spekke's, Yanums', and Zarini's do not regret the efforts in the search for new victims from the ranks of the emigrants for the conduct of espionage.

To catch and to give a spy what he deserves is of course important business. But still more important is to ruthlessly unmask the treacherous heart of the leaders of the Latvian emigration. The citizens of our republic in their letters to relatives abroad can show the true character of these traitors so as not to give them the possibility of involving mistaken, deceived people in the dirty criminal business of American intelligence. "G." who returned to his homeland thru repatriation, has performed useful work in this direction. In the first postwar years he was a member of the "Daugavas Vanagi" organization and cooperated in a number of emigrant organizations until he became convinced of the mercenariness of the Yanums's, Brachs's, and the likes of them. Correctly evaluating the situation, "G." unmasked the emigrant clique.

The ringleaders of the emigrant movement are sending clothing and food packages to the republic. Some of our citizens do not understand that they are groveling before the leaders of the emigrant movement when they accept the beggarly presents in the shape of packages directly from them or through their relatives who are also in the emigration movement. What do we not have for the satisfaction of all the demands of man? Even foreigners, arriving in the Latvian SSR with preconceived attitudes of our accomplishments, say that we have fully enough of everything. It is a disgrace to the honor and dignity of the Soviet citizen.

Persons receiving packages at times do not take into account the fact that these packages can gradually draw them into contact with the representatives of American and other intelligence organizations. The facts show that they can demand reciprocal "services" from some of the receivers of packages at a suitable moment, services in the form of espionage work. That this is actually so was confirmed by none other than one of the leaders of the emigre movement, Reingards, who in February of 1960 at a session of the "Latvian National Union" emigrant organization declared, "Packages and letters--this is the form of the struggle. Packages have not only a material value but a still greater moral one."

It is necessary to understand this and to give a rebuff to those "benefactors" from the emigre movements who have sold out their birthrights for a mess of pottage and who think they can bribe our people with rags and goods.

The Soviet people must always carefully preserve the state secrets entrusted to each one of them according to the kind of work he does. Incidentally, some people adjudge the problem approximately in this manner: "I don't have any atomic or missile secrets at my disposal. Therefore I have nothing to divulge and questions of vigilance do not affect me." This is a false, simplified understanding of government secrets. Just as rivers are formed from brooks, so do data on the great accomplishments of science, technology, and culture in our country take shape from individual details and from apparently small things.

No one has to humble himself, to simplify his role, his place in the great job of the building of Communism. Every one of us plays a large part in Communist construction. Every worker, engineer, technician, scientist, builder, collective-farm worker, civil servant is a direct, active participant in the grandiose construction of the majestic building of Communism. Therefore it is completely unpermissible to chatter or brag about what is known of the individual details of this great construction. It is necessary to remember always that the full, big, and majestic picture is formed from the details, from the small things.

The spy of American or other capitalist intelligence organizations does not actually try to collect all the interesting data at once. He gathers this data gradually, in parts; in the course of everyday, mundane conversations, as he tries to ferret out what he needs from his partner in the conversation.

The masses of our Soviet people know well how to guard our secrets. For that very reason the American intelligence agents, not finding another way to seize our secrets, are trying to worm them out some way by means of reconnaissance flights over our country. And this is why it is necessary to raise even more the demands for the maintenance of state secrecy by the Soviet people.

The Fifth Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR passed a law concerning the affirmation of an important decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR on 13 January 1960 which says that a Soviet citizen who has been recruited by capitalist intelligence and appears to be guilty is freed from criminal responsibility if he has done nothing in the execution of his assigned task. In the Decree it is stated as follows: "A citizen of the USSR who has been recruited by foreign intelligence for the conduct of hostile acts against the USSR, is not liable to criminal responsibility if, as regards the execution of the assigned hostile acts, he does not actually commit any of the acts and voluntarily declares his contact with foreign intelligence to the organs of power."

This law is evidence of the great humanity of our government, and let every person in the enigre movement know about it. Citizens having relatives and acquaintances abroad can tell them about this law in their letters.

Great political vigilance has always been an inalienable quality of every Soviet citizen. All intrigues of foreign intelligence have been smashed by this vigilance and the indestructable loyalty of our people to the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. That is the way it was in the past and the way it will be in the future.

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